

# Value for Money Statement

**Organisation name: Sacred Heart Catholic High School**

**Company number: 7841435**

**Year ended 31 August 2014**

I accept that as accounting officer of Sacred Heart Catholic High School I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. I am aware of the guide to academy value for money statements published by the Education Funding Agency and understand that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

I set out below how I have ensured that the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

## Improving Educational Results

The school recorded its best ever GCSE results in 2014, 82% of our students achieved five or more A\*-C grades, including English and Mathematics. Almost 1 in 5 students gained 8 or more A\*/A grades which is a fantastic achievement. Nationally only 1 in 5 grades are A\*/A but at Sacred Heart this is now more than 1 in 3.

We are thrilled with these brilliant results which is testament to the hard work of the students, and the dedication and commitment of our staff.

The school was rated outstanding by Ofsted at its last inspection.

The school looks forward to welcoming back many students to the newly extended and refurbished Sixth Form Centre which was completed in August 2014, where students can build on their success and look forward to excellent A level results. Much thought was put in to providing silent and quiet study areas for the students at their request, and we have taken advantage of reduced rate subscription offers to provide a choice of quality newspapers and journals for the students to read in the quiet study area.

Staffing structures are reviewed to ensure staff are efficiently deployed and are well qualified, experienced specialists. We have ensured that there are sufficient staff to provide targeted support and one to one tuition for students in key curriculum areas.

## Financial Performance

Our governance arrangements include termly meetings of the Site & Finance Committee, and the full Governing Body. We currently have a very committed board of governors with a broad spectrum of educational, pastoral and business experience. The management accounts and budget variance reports are discussed in depth by the Site & Finance governors and they are given the opportunity to ask relevant questions. The committee also approves any large spending proposals, for example the refurbishment of the vocational building which took place over the summer break.

The Finance & Business Manager is a qualified ACCA accountant and she ensures there are very good financial controls in place. All contracts are regularly reviewed to ensure the school achieves good value for money whilst maintaining quality services. An example of this is the school mobile phone contract which was reviewed this year and as a result the bill has been reduced by about 50%. The school also took the decision to bring the cost of attendance and caretaking SLAs in house which has resulted in further cost savings.

All the heads of department receive detailed budget spending reports and they strive to source the best prices from suppliers when placing orders.

The Finance & Business Manager regularly reviews the bank balances with our Bank Relationship Manager to ensure we are maximising bank interest receivable on our deposit accounts.

As an Academy school we liaise with other schools through a Business Managers network to ensure our spending is comparable to other similar schools.

Anita Bath  
Academy Trust Accounting Officer

3rd December 2014

**Name:** Mrs Anita Bath  
**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

**Date:** 08 Dec 2014